

REMARKS

We have amended independent claim 1 to include "a plurality of cross support members," a feature previously recited in dependent claim 2 (now cancelled). Additionally, we have amended "a first and second edge" of the wedges in claim 1 to read the "an upper edge and a lower edge" which corrects the improper antecedent basis objection. We have added several dependent claims, new claims 25-32, to amended independent claim 1. Finally, we have added independent claim 33 as well as dependent claims 34-37.

Prior Art Rejections

Amended Independent Claim 1

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 as being anticipated by Pierson (U.S. 3,914,859). The Examiner has previously acknowledged that Pierson did not disclose a "plurality of cross support members" (Office Action, dated Nov 20, 2001, pg.3, para 2), and, therefore, we respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Pierson.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-6 and 8-10 as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Pierson in view of Curtiss (U.S. 4,134,036). We submit, however, that neither Pierson nor Curtiss describe or suggest "a plurality of cross support members," as recited in amended independent claim 1. Curtiss clearly does not disclose a "plurality of cross support members."

It is clear from a full reading of Pierson and Curtiss that neither patent discloses or suggests "a plurality of cross support members" and neither reference provides any suggestion for a person skilled in the art to modify the Pierson patent to include a plurality of cross support members.

Because claims 2--6 and 8-10 depend from independent claim 1, these dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable.

The Examiner also rejected claim 7 as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Pierson in view of Curtiss and in further view of Livingston (U.S. 1,538,196). Like Pierson and Curtiss, Livingston also does not teach or suggest a stator assembly having "a plurality of cross support members" with "spaces between adjacent cross support members defining a plurality of

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channels," as recited in claim 1. Thus, even if a person of skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of the Livingston patent with the teachings of the Pierson and Curtiss patents, that person would still have not arrived at the invention as recited in amended claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the fact that amended independent claim 1 include "a plurality of cross support members" that are spaced to define "a plurality of channels," applicants respectfully request that all amended claims be allowed.

Enclosed is check for \$920 for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

June 3, 2002

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claims 2 and 11 have been cancelled.

Claims 12-24 have been previously restricted.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 10 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A stator support system for supporting a stator coil assembly, the stator support system comprising:

an inner support tube having an outer surface;

a plurality of spaced windings supported on the outer surface of the inner support tube, spaces between adjacent windings defining a plurality of gaps;

a plurality of wedges, each disposed within one of the plurality of gaps and having [a first] an upper edge and [second] a lower edge, the [first] lower edge configured to mechanically engage the outer surface of the inner support tube; and

a plurality of cross support members positioned over the plurality of spaced windings and extending perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the stator coil assembly, spaces between adjacent cross support members defining a plurality of channels, each of the cross support members having a first edge configured to mechanically engage the [second] upper edge of the plurality of wedges.

3. (Amended) The stator support system of claim [2] 1, further comprising: [wherein the stator coil assembly is surrounded by] a housing having an inner surface defining a radial opening with a longitudinal axis positioned at the center of the radial opening; and wherein [and] each of the plurality of spaced cross support members have a second edge configured to mechanically engage an inner surface of the housing.

6. (Amended) The stator support system of claim [2] 1 wherein the first edge of the plurality of spaced cross support members is configured with at least one tab.

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7. (Amended) The stator support system of claim 1 wherein the [second] upper edge of the plurality of wedges is configured with at least one notch.

10. (Amended) The stator support system of claim 1 wherein each of the [spaced] cross support members is formed of a high permeability material.